

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 9, 2004 has been fully considered by the Applicant. Applicant hereby respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection.

Attached herewith is a Request for Continued Examination and a Request for A Three-Month Extension of Time, along with checks to cover the government fees. If for any reason additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1500.

Claim 1 is currently amended, claims 2-3, 5, and 8-9 have been previously presented. Claims 4, 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 10 is new.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,930,512 to Boden et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been currently amended to include the step wherein the user access of a particular software application support component is achieved by the user interacting with the display screen to select, via a user selection tool, one of the plurality of process model elements graphically displayed on the display screen whereupon the software application support component linked to the selected process model element is generated on the display screen for use by the user. Thus, if one of the plurality of process model elements is selected by the user, typically by clicking on it with a computer mouse when the cursor lies over the particular element on the screen, any software application support component which is linked to that process model element is made available to the user on the screen. The user can then immediately start to interact with the selected software application support component as required. Applicants believe that currently amended claim 1 is novel of the '512 Boden et al patent and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

In contrast, there is not disclosed in the ‘512 Boden et al patent the direct linking between the plurality of process model elements and the software application and information support components as part of the model, as in Applicants’ currently amended claim 1. While there is shown in the Boden ‘512 patent the possibility of having graphical icons on the screen that can be individually selected by the user, there is no direct link between the plurality of process model elements and the software application and information support components. Thus, the user, in Applicant’s invention, does not have to make individual selections of particular graphical icons, as in the ‘512 Boden et al patent, but rather need only select one of the plurality of process model elements; and if the user selects an element which requires interaction with a software application and information support component, the software application and information support component will be generated without the user needing to take any further action or making any further selections. Applicants sincerely believe that currently amended claim 1 is novel over the ‘512 Boden et al patent.

In addition, Applicants’ currently amended claim 1 allows, firstly, reduced time spent by the user in interaction with the process model and, secondly, ensures that the user, upon selecting a particular process model element, is presented with the required software application and information support component(s) each time. One key difference between Applicants’ invention and the ‘512 Boden et al patent is that in Applicants’ invention, the graphical definition of the process is the same when it is put in front of the designers as it is when it subsequently is put in front of users of the end functionality. In the ‘512 Boden et al patent, the process definition is discarded at the beginning of the method. As stated previously, Applicants’ method is ‘bigger’ than that which is disclosed in the ‘512 Boden et al patent: Applicants’ invention has the ability to link from the process graphical diagram rather than just process description as in the ‘512 Boden et al patent. Applicants believe that currently amended claim 1 is novel over the ‘512 Boden et al patent and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

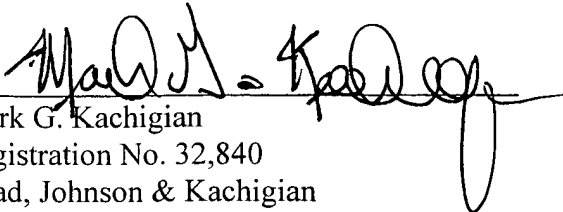
Claim 8 depends upon currently amended claim 1 and therefore Applicants believe that it is novel over the cited references for the same reasons stated above. In addition, Applicants' invention solves the problem faced in the '901 Entner et al patent by providing a method for creating and deploying a process-driven information system wherein the user community defines the process graphically and then that same graphical representation is utilized functionally, that is, Applicants' invention does not have to be reversed engineered to aid user comprehension as in the Entner et al patent.

The remaining claims 2-3, 5, and 8-9 are dependent on currently amended claim 1 and believed allowable for the same reasons.

New claim 10 has been added to include a method for creating and deploying a process-driven information system which include the steps of currently amended claim 1 with the added step of repeating steps (a) and (d) periodically to redefine and update the model, elements and software components as required and then releasing a new version after each said periodic revision. It is believed that new claim 10 is novel over the cited references.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1500.

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